GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3101
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2000
IMPORT OF TEA COFFEE
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge import of tea/coffee has created problems for the domestic tea and coffee industry;

(b) if so, the quantum of tea and coffee imported during each of last three years;

(c) the details of problems being faced by tea/coffee industry/growers; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to solve the problems and to ensure that the interest of tea/coffee industry/growers would not be affected due to such import?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (d) : Import of Tea/Coffee into India is negligible as compared to our production. Import of Tea/Coffee during the last three years has been as under:-

(in mn.kgs)

Year	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Tea	2.60	8.93	9.78
Coffee	0.96	2.00	2.40

However, in order to protect the domestic tea and coffee industries from imports, Government has recently increased the basic customs duty on tea and coffee from 15% to 35%. Sale of tea in the Domestic Tariff Area by Export Oriented Units and units in the Export Processing Zones has been banned with effect from 20.7.2000.